



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE**

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### **Wind River Development Fund Named Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year**

**Riverton** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named the Wind River Development Fund (WRDF), Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year 2004. Additionally, the Wind River Development Fund has earned the honor of being the Regional Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year after competing against minority small business advocates from Colorado, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota and Montana.

This award is given to an individual or entity whose efforts advance minority small business interests and improves conditions in the minority small business community, provide professional services to minority small businesses and demonstrate accomplishments in advising minority small business groups of opportunities within the overall business community. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

The Wind River Development Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation on the Wind River Indian Reservation, home to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes. The mission of the WRDF is to provide the financial opportunities, training and technical assistance necessary to stimulate economic development on and near the Reservation. Since its inception, the WRDF has loaned more than \$80,000 to small businesses and they plan to make at least eight more loans during 2004, translating into the creation or retention of over 40 jobs on the Reservation.

The entire staff and board of the WRDF have worked as a team to develop this organization and carry out its mission. The Wind River Development Fund staff includes Lisa Wagner, Executive Director, Patricia Bergie, Loan and Technical Assistance Officer and Jennifer Clah, Office Manager. The board members of the WRDF include Scott Ratliff, Melvin "Pete" Calhoun, Margaret Haukaas, Dan Davis, John Washakie and Anne McIntosh.

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